

## REMARKS

### I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2004, claims 6, 16, and 26 have been cancelled, and claims 5, 15, and 25 have been amended. Claims 5, 7-15, 17-25, and 27-34 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

### II. Restriction Requirement

In response to the prior arguments, the Examiner asserts that Group I claims subject matter to associate different layout of drawings to different output device, that is to associate different portion of file to different output device whereas Group II claims subject matter to configure an output device.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Group I is configured to associate different files or different layouts of files with different output devices. However, Group II is not claiming how to configure an output device. As claimed, Group II is directed towards associating multiple output device configurations with information such as a file (e.g., a drawing file). In this regard, the claims are not directed towards configuring the output devices themselves. In fact, claim 8 which is in Group II specifies that the information that is associated with an output configuration is a layout of a drawing - which is similar to that claimed in Group I.

Nonetheless, in view of the restriction requirement and to expedite prosecution, Applicant has elected Group II.

### III. Prior Art Rejections

In paragraphs (1)-(2) of the Office Action, claims 5-10, 12, 14-20, 22, 24-30, 32, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Snyders, U.S. Patent No. 5,982,996 (Snyders). In paragraph (5) of the Office Action, claims 11, 13, 21, 23, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snyders in view of Marbry et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,692,111 (Marbry).

Specifically, some of the claims were rejected as follows:

Claims 5-10, 12, 14-20, 22, 24-30, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Snyders (Patent #5,982,996).

Regarding claim 5, 15, 25, Snyders teaches the claimed invention of associating multiple output device as shown in fig. 1.

A computer with information is shown in fig 1, element 10

One or more printer (output device) configuration stored is shown in fig 9, element 2.7.24.

Selecting information is shown in fig 7, element s3 and s3

Selecting one or more output device configuration is shown in fig 7, element s7

Associating information with output device configuration is shown in fig 10, element 27.26.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 26, 27, 28, Snyders shows a information to be printed as a graphics or drawing file as shown in fig 7, element s3.

Regarding claims 9, 19, 29, Snyders teaches the claimed invention of obtaining setting of the printer and associating it with the information as shown in fig 9, element S7.22, S7.23 and S7.26.

Regarding claims 10, 14, 20, 24, 30, 34, Snyders teaches the claimed information of saving the setting as shown in fig 9, element S7.24

Regarding claims 12, 22, 32, Snyder teaches a printer as shown in fig 1, element 14, 16 and 18.

Applicant traverses the above rejections for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) Neither Snyders nor Marbry teach, disclose or suggest associating an output device configuration with a particular file of information that is generated by a computer application; and
- (2) Neither Snyders nor Marbry teach, disclose or suggest saving an output device configuration with a particular file generated by a computer application.

Independent claims 5, 15, and 25 are generally directed to associating an output device configuration with information. More specifically, a file/information that is generated by a computer application is selected. Further, an output device configuration is selected. Thereafter, the selected output device configuration is associated with the information/file by saving the association between the output device configuration and the file/information with the file/information. Thus, individual files/information have the capability to be associated with a particular output device configuration. When the file is retrieved or opened again, the output device configuration associated with the file already exists and is associated with the file so no further configuration is necessary. Further, the user creating the file does not need to worry about how the document will print on a different printer/output device, since the user specifies which printer/output device the file/information is associated with and stores the association with the file itself.

The cited references do not teach nor suggest these various elements of Applicant's independent claims.

Snyders merely describes the ability to print a single file on multiple output devices (see Abstract; col. 1, lines 9-13; col. 7, lines 46-55). However, there is no capability or description,

implicit or explicit, for associating the configuration with the file or saving an association (between an output device configuration and the file) with the file.

In rejecting the associating step of the present invention, the Office Action relied on fig. 10, element S7.26. Fig. 10, S7.26 provides for "changing document properties to match new driver settings". In this regard, element S7.26 (as described in col. 12, lines 24-31) merely provides that upon selecting a particular printer, the document is updated with the properties for that printer. Such a teaching is consistent with the problems of the prior art set forth in the specification of the present invention. Namely, when the new printer is selected, the document format may change to accommodate the new printer. The present claims further elaborate on the association by stating that the association itself is stored/saved with the file/information. There is no such mechanism in Snyder or the other cited art.

Original claim 10 provides for a saving step (saving settings for the output device configuration with the file/information). In rejecting this claim, the Office Action relied on Fig. 9, element S7.24. Element S7.24 provides "save new printer info in the system registry". In other words, the new printer info is saved in the system registry, which is a registry of system information. In this regard, the system registry is not the same as the file/information that has been associated with the output device. The system registry is not a file and is not information that is associated with a particular output device configuration. Additionally, the system registry is not selected as in the present claims. Accordingly, Snyder does not provide, describe, teach, disclose, suggest, or allude to, implicitly or explicitly, a file that is saved with an association to an output device configuration. Further, Snyder completely fails to even remotely suggest saving such an association between a particular file/information (that is created by a computer application) with an output device configuration.

Thus, Applicant submits that independent claims 5, 15, and 25 are allowable over Snyders and Marbry. Further, dependent claims 7-14, 17-24, and 27-34 are submitted to be allowable over Snyders and Marbry in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 5, 15, and 25, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 7-14, 17-24, and 27-34 recite additional novel elements not shown by Snyders and Marbry.

IV. Conclusion

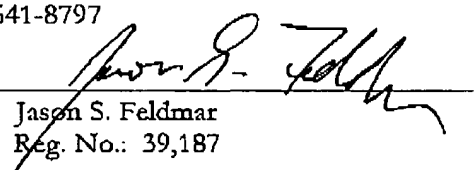
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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